

POTASH FROM KELP.

CONGRESSMAN LEVER HEARS FROM SECRETARY HOUSTON.

Deposits are Ample—Responsible Makers of Fertilizer are Invited to Look into New Sources.

Columbia, Aug. 6.—Congressman A. F. Lever is in receipt of a letter from D. F. Houston, secretary of agriculture of the United States, which is of importance to farmers, as it deals with one of the most interesting and far-reaching questions confronting the farmers everywhere at this particular time. Several years ago Representative Lever, realizing the dependence of the United States upon foreign countries for potash, obtained an appropriation in the agricultural bill of \$25,000 to enable the department to ascertain any possible sources of potash in this country. The discovery has been made that the giant kelps of the Pacific ocean within American territory furnish an almost inexhaustible supply of this fertilizer material. These kelp beds have been mapped and the data regarding them published.

Some weeks ago Congressman Lever wrote Secretary Houston, urging upon him the desirability of taking advantage of these times to find some way to develop these sources of potash. With such development and the use of the Panama canal, in the opinion of Mr. Lever, potash would become very much cheaper in the South, even than it is under normal world conditions.

Secretary Houston has replied as follows:

"Hon. A. F. Lever, Lexington, S. C.

"Dear Mr. Lever: I have just had a conference with the chief of the bureau of soils regarding your letter of July 15 addressed to Dr. Cameron. I agree with you that this is a time when we should do everything possible and reasonable to help develop a potash industry in this country. The bureau of soils has been very diligent and efficient in carrying out the provisions of law regarding the possible fertilizer resources of the United States. It has done good work in the study of the utilization of our phosphate deposits and has published a number of bulletins. It is working on the important question of fixation of atmospheric nitrogen and the small building that the committee authorized last year to be constructed at Arlington is about completed and the equipment is practically installed for the further investigations on a scale comparable with a small commercial plant that will enable them to solve some of the important questions of making available the nitrogen of the air for the use of our farmers.

"It has been very diligent in its explorations for possible sources of potash and has published several bulletins giving the results of its explorations. The most promising and the most complete of these investigations has been in connection with the giant kelps of the Pacific coast. You have undoubtedly seen the recent publication issued as 'Report No. 106,' which I feel presents in a complete and satisfactory way the opportunities that are offered there for commercial potash production. It has seemed to me with this presentation, which gives maps showing the location of the kelp beds, giving the amount of potash contained therein and estimate of the tonnage, showing the relation of these beds to the navigation data, that it is now fitting that commercial interests should develop at their own expense a commercial potash supply.

"Under my instructions the bureau has taken pains to bring these matters before responsible financial interests of the country; but, as in all such large enterprises, it is exceedingly difficult to get capital and substantial business men to develop new lines. As is not uncommonly the case in a matter of this kind, the first to enter the business are irresponsible and are not sufficiently in earnest in their attempt to develop the industry, but rather to make money out of the idea. This is not the kind of people with whom the department wants to deal. If substantial fertilizer firms, such as The Virginia-Carolina Chemical company of Richmond, Va.; The Royster Guano company of Norfolk, Va.; The Richmond Guano company, Richmond, Va.; The York Chemical work, York, Pa.; Jarecki Chemical company, Cincinnati, Ohio; The Welch Fertilizer company, Columbus, Ohio; The Mutual Fertilizer company, Savannah, Ga.; The Planters' company, Charleston, S. C., or any of the large and responsible firms or association of firms will definitely commit themselves, either to an actual demonstration or to an actual development of this industry, I shall be very glad to lend the weight of this department in an advisory capacity to help establish a potash industry, but I am unwilling to authorize the expenditure of funds in cooperation with irresponsible enterprises and I am sure that in this position you will agree with me.

"I think with you, that the time is

STUDIES DEFENSE PLANS.

PRESIDENT OCCUPIED ON BROAD PROGRAM.

To Consult Chairmen of Naval and Military Committee on Scheme of Action—Reports on Hand.

Cornish, N. H., Aug. 5.—Aiming at developing a broad and convincing programme of national defense which will meet with the approval of congress, President Wilson is planning to cooperate with the chairmen of the military and naval affairs committees of the senate and house as well as with Secretaries Garrison and Daniels before finally deciding on recommendation to make in his next message to congress.

The president told friends here today that while he had made no definite plans for consulting with the chairmen of the committees interested in national defense, he would arrange, to see them before congress convenes to unite on a single programme of action.

When the president sees the chairmen of the four committees he expects to have before him reports being prepared by the heads of the war and navy departments who are expected to take part in the conference. The president already has written to Chairman Padgett of the house naval affairs committee inviting him to meet him on the president's return to Washington. While he did not say tonight whether he had written similar letters to the chairmen of the other committees, it was reported he had done so.

The president believes the time has come for the United States to decide on a definite programme of national defense. He will not decide in his own mind on the kind of programme required until he has thoroughly examined the reports of Mr. Garrison and Mr. Daniels and has received the views of the congressional leaders. The president expects members of the military and naval committees to give and receive ideas before the appropriation bills containing army and navy items come up for discussion.

The plan of the president is to consider carefully a programme of national defense after free consultation with others and then to throw the entire weight of the administration behind the policy agreed on. The president opposes a policy of "militarism" but thinks the United States should be defended.

The report of Secretaries Garrison and Daniels are expected to be ready next week.

BADGER RETIRES TODAY.

Commanded Atlantic Fleet at Vera Cruz Occupation.

Washington, Aug. 5.—Rear Admiral Charles J. Badger will retire tomorrow on account of age, but will continue on duty indefinitely in connection with the army and navy joint board and the navy general board, which are working out national defense problems. Admiral Badger was commander-in-chief of the Atlantic fleet from January 4, 1913, until after its return from the Mexican Gulf coast at the time of the American occupation of Vera Cruz.

MOTHER DROWNS CHILDREN.

And Then Leaps Into Well Herself. Deatsville, Ala., Aug. 5.—Mrs. Lee Tatum, 30 years old, drowned her four children by throwing them into a fifty-foot well on her farm, near here, and then committed suicide by jumping into the well, according to word received here today. She is believed to have been temporarily insane. The eldest child was 9 years old, the youngest 4 months.

at hand when the opportunity is ripe for work of this kind to be done and the department is willing to cooperate so far as we can under the law and with our appropriation, but only in the event that responsible commercial firms shall bear the chief burden and responsibility of developing the methods and means by which the work must eventually be placed upon a sound basis.

"It is a surprise to me that under the circumstances these firms have not already given evidence of serious intent which this department could have recognized as a basis for cooperative effort."

Congressman Lever feels confident that in the not distant future the fertilizer people and commercial interests will take up the all-important work of developing the natural resources of the country—especially along the lines suggested in Mr. Houston's letter. It will mean a saving of millions of dollars annually to the farmers of the nation; and, besides, it will help further to establish and prove to foreign interests that America is not dependent upon them for potash. Mr. Lever expects to continue his efforts to develop this industry, which will be, he thinks, one of the greatest boons to agriculture in the history of the country.

PELLAGRA CASES DISCUSSED.

SITUATION AT EPWORTH ORPHANAGE IS OUTLINED.

Symptoms in Most Cases Occurring This Year Have Subsided, Physician Says—Will Test out Diet Treatment.

Columbia, Aug. 6.—H. W. Rice, M. D., acting physician to Epworth orphanage, made a statement as follows yesterday, regarding the prevalence of pellagra in that institution and the measures to be taken for control of the disease under the direction of the United States public health service:

"Since the announcement that there were from 75 to 100 cases of pellagra in Epworth orphanage and that the public health service of the United States government was to try out the theory there that the disease can be prevented by a properly balanced diet, inquiries have come to me, as physician to the orphanage, for information as to the situation there.

"As a matter of fact there has been one or more attacks of pellagra in more than 150 children now inmates of the orphanage. There have been no deaths, and except among a few of the 110 cases this year, all symptoms of the disease have subsided.

"The object of the government is to supply constantly to all the children a highly nutritious, well proportioned diet, such as we have found to be markedly efficacious in the treatment of those sick of pellagra. It is expected that this plan will prevent the usual seasonal recurrence of the disease in the orphanage. If the experiment is successful, as shown elsewhere, then it will be incumbent upon such institutions in the State to furnish a proper diet along lines indicated by the results in this instance.

"Aside from the benefits to this particular orphanage, it may be an educative measure of far-reaching consequences to the people of the State."

"PUBLIC DEFENDER" IN GEORGIA.

New Court Officer for Cities of Over One Hundred Thousand Population.

Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 5.—A bill creating the office of "public defender" in counties of over 100,000 population was passed unanimously by the Georgia State senate here today. It already had passed the house.

The bill provides that the "public defender" shall be elected by a vote of the people. Until the general election in 1916 the governor is authorized to appoint some one to fill the office.

The duties of the public defender, according to the provisions of the bill, will be to defend all persons charged with crime in the higher courts, unless he shall be convinced of the defendant's guilt. His duties will not extend to the police courts.

The "defender" is given a bailiff to assist him.

SUIT FOR DACIA COMPROMISED.

Action by Ship Brokers Against Owners of Captured Vessel Is Settled.

New York, Aug. 5.—A suit filed here by E. V. Novelty and company, ship brokers, against E. N. Breitling, owner of the steamship Dacia, seized by a French cruiser while bound from Galveston to Rotterdam, was compromised today. The terms were not made public.

Novelty & Co., claimed they held an option on the Dacia at the time of her sale by the Hamburg-American line and had procured the ship's cargo. The French government paid for the Dacia's cargo and a French court has confirmed the vessel's seizure.

FLORENCE BONDS SOLD.

First National Bank Buys Entire Issue

Florence, Aug. 5.—City and school bonds to the amount of \$222,000 were sold here yesterday evening at a premium of 1.16-100 above par and the whole issue was bought by the First National bank of this city. The bonds bear the rate of 5 per cent. interest and mature in 40 and 20 years. There were several other bids, among them the Palmetto Bank and Trust company, the Commercial and Saving bank and the City Savings bank of this city, besides there were a few outside bids offered. Of the above amount \$52,000 is for the erection of a new school building and \$180,000 is for paying off indebtedness and making further street improvements.

Winnboro Man Goes to England.

Mr. Robert F. Gooding spent several days here this week with home folks before leaving for England. Mr. Gooding is an electrical engineer and has a position with the Westinghouse Electrical Co., of Pittsburgh, who are now sending him to England to superintend some work that they have contracts for. Mr. Gooding has prepared plans and superintending the installation of some extensive electrical plants in this country.—Winnboro News and Herald.

CONFERENCE FAILS TO ACT.

GENERAL SCOTT STARTS FOR MEXICAN BORDER TO CONFER WITH VILLA.

Pan-Americans Agree With Wilson's Plan—Conference Decides Upon Form of Note to Be Addressed to Mexican People.

Washington, Aug. 6.—The Pan-American conference considering means to restore peace to Mexico adjourned today after having developed no divergence of opinion as to its general purpose, but leaving undecided the exact course to be pursued. It will probably reassemble in New York probably early next week.

Meanwhile the Latin-American diplomats will communicate with their governments, and Secretary Lansing will confer with President Wilson.

It was reported tonight that the general form of the final appeal to the factional leaders had been agreed upon by the conferees and adjournment taken while Mr. Lansing laid it before the president. The secretary was said to be at work on a draft of the appeal tonight, in consultation with Secretary Lane, who is kept in close touch with the Mexican situation. The appeal will be addressed to the Mexican people. Copies will be presented to the various Mexican leaders, to the governors of the Mexican states, without regard to the faction they represent, and also be circulated throughout Mexico by American and Latin-American consular officers, bearing the ratification of all South and Central American governments.

Two days of conferences and hearings reports have brought all the participants in accord with President Wilson's general plan, which is premised on the fact that the great majority of the people of Mexico desire peace, which to be lasting must go beyond consideration of those who have furthered their plans through force of arms.

The conferees were impressed that while the armed forces are in position to keep the country in a state of turmoil, they are, nevertheless, only a small proportion of the people of Mexico.

While all the participants are in sympathy with the president's plan to induce the military factions to enter another peace conference and have signified their willingness to cooperate with it to the fullest extent, the South Americans are not sanguine of success unless some way can be found for the elimination of the military leaders and the recognition of all classes in Mexico.

It is realized that there are questions of vast moment, when considered in the light of Mexico's international obligations and the responsibilities of the nations which are preparing to sponsor her rehabilitation, that cannot be determined in any brief conferences, but must be the subject of deliberation.

Foremost is the extent to which the claims of the military chiefs shall be considered, and what concessions between them can be arranged. One development which emphasized that feature was the dispatch tonight of Major Gen. Scott, chief of staff of the army, to the Mexican border to confer with Gen. Villa.

The war department refused to comment on Gen. Scott's mission, and it was said there that no statement would be made by the State department. After a conference between Gen. Scott and Secretary Lansing and Acting Secretary Breckinridge, of the war department, it was said the general was going to readjust the American forces in the light of recent developments which have threatened attacks on border towns. It was generally believed, however, that Gen. Scott in whom Gen. Villa has expressed confidence, and to whom he often has turned for advice, will outline to the northern chieftain the need of consideration for the other factions. This was taken to indicate that some of the conferees were impressed that the military successes and the extent of territory conquered by Gen. Carranza would entitle him to a greater measure of consideration than Gen. Villa has been inclined to admit.

"Another point is the extent to which the business and industrial element, sometimes called the Cientificos, must be taken into consideration. It is being urged in their behalf that most of them have not been identified with any military activity. A preliminary conference at the Argentine embassy, which was attended by Eduardo Huibide, former governor of the Federal district of Mexico, and generally accredited a representative of the upper class of Mexico, indicated that this view was given weight especially by the three ambassadors of the A. B. C. powers, who dealt with this subject at the Niagara Falls conference last summer.

No official announcement was made of the proceedings today and the participants declined to discuss details of their deliberations. Some, however, had no hesitancy in saying that there had been progress and that they liked

HARD PROBLEMS FACE WILSON

PRESIDENT TO PROBE INCOMPETENCY IN STEAMBOAT INSPECTION SERVICE.

Many Difficulties for Executive to Solve on His Speedy Return to Capital—Cotton Growers Demand for Freedom of Seas and Importation.

Washington, August 9.—Domestic rather than international problems will cause President Wilson to return to Washington soon. Overshadowing everything else is the newly discovered incompetence of the steam boat inspection service and the demand of organized labor that there be no whitewash of the investigation. The civil service and subordinate commerce department resent Redfield's statement that he inherited the bad condition. A drastic probe personally directed by Pres. Wilson is expected. The so called failures of the tariff bill, the treasury deficit, national defense and the demands of Southern cotton men for the freedom of the seas, as well as the border situation will also receive attention.

AMERICAN REGISTRY FOR SHIPS.

Foreign Built Vessels Purchased With German Money for American Trans-Atlantic Company.

Washington, Aug. 6.—Provisional American registry was granted today to two more of the fleet of foreign built ships purchased for the American Trans-Atlantic company with money furnished by Hugo Stinnes of Essen, Germany, according to information at the department of commerce. They are the Lapland, at Barrow, England, and the Solveig, detained at Marseilles, France. Both are under the Norwegian flag.

Registry of three other ships for which application was made by the company has been held up pending technical formalities. Investigation also is in progress as to the exact circumstances of the sale of the Saugarland, for which provisional registry has been granted, a question as to the transfer having been raised.

LOOK FOR EXPLOSIVES.

Authorities Search Baggage Bound for Europe.

New York, Aug. 7.—Baggage of ican liner St. Louis today was carefully searched for explosives. Each of the 670 passengers who left here for Liverpool aboard the American liner was searched for explosives. The passenger list was the largest in a long time. Three Americans were among the 119 passengers sailing for Glasgow on the Anchor liner Camerona. The steamer carried a large cargo of war supplies.

Local Option Wins in Kentucky.

Louisville, August 9.—All county option candidates were chosen in Saturday's primary. Stanley was selected as the gubernatorial nominee.

the general plan of the American government.

In the conference today there were Secretary Lansing, Paul Fuller, President Wilson's unofficial adviser in Mexican affairs, and the diplomatic representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Bolivia, Uruguay and Guatemala. At the conclusion of a session lasting three hours Secretary Lansing said there was nothing to be announced except that the conference would be continued in New York. He will notify the diplomats when he is ready to resume. New York, he said, was selected for the convenience of the diplomats, many of whom have summer places near there.

There was no change in the first step to send final representations to the military leaders, and to Gen. Carranza in particular, demanding, for the sake of the millions of non-combatants, that they form a new government that can be recognized and supported by the American nations and the world.

An alternative proposes the selection of a strong man for president, whom a majority of the people would support. One who has not been engaged in the civil warfare would be insisted upon. That the plan might necessitate an embargo on munitions of war to any faction which refuses to recognize the new government is probable.

Rumors that a breach had occurred over personalities were emphatically denied, and it was said the discussion had not yet reached the stage where the presidency was being considered. The status of Gen. Carranza and Gen. Villa was freely considered and debated. The fact that Carranza has refused to confer with his adversaries whom he considers conquered was discussed.

Questions of international law, various provisions of the Mexican Constitution and the probability that many of Carranza's adherents might not follow him into defiance of a genuine Pan-American effort to restore peace and government in their country are to be carefully studied before the final programme is decided.

INCREASE IN USE OF LINTERS

VALUE OF 1914 COTTON CROP ESTIMATED AT \$749,384,978.

Hester States That 395,000 Bales of Linters Were Used During Season—Value of Crop, Including Seed, not as Great as Year Previous.

New Orleans, Aug. 7.—In a final report on the cotton crop of 1914-1915, H. G. Hester, secretary of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, shows that while 17,004,000 bales were grown, the commercial crop was only 15,108,111 bales, and that the value of the crop, including seed, was \$749,384,978 as against \$1,134,444,114 for the preceding crop. As to how much this falling off was due to the war and how much to the fact that the production was the largest ever recorded there is considerable difference of opinion in cotton circles.

The crop is spoken of as running remarkably even in grade, averaging middling, without a superabundance of the higher or the lower grades. The average price per pound for middling during the year was 7.84 cents, against 13.49 during the preceding year.

A feature of the report which proved of special interest to the trade concerned the use of linters, that part of the crop which enters into the manufacture of explosives. It had been contended from the first of the season that the consumption of cotton would be greatly increased by the war. From a monthly average of 26,000 bales of linters during the first half of the season, the consumption jumped to 40,000 bales during the second half. Linters consumed during the season amounted to 395,000 bales, in increase of 86,000 over last year.

During the period of low prices both Northern and Southern spinners bought freely, and their aggregate takings were 6,354,000 bales, a new high record for the mills of this country.

While the year opened with doubt and uncertainty for the American mills, great activity came later with the result that in the South new high marks for consumption were reached, the consumption in the Southern group of mills exceeding the previous record, made last year, by 100,000 bales. The South consumed 3,163,000 bales, the North 2,618,000 and the entire world 14,134,000.

Dividing the commercial crop into States, Texas easily leads with 4,619,000 bales, and Georgia comes second with 2,440,000.

Dividing consumption in the South, North Carolina leads with 918,192 bales, while South Carolina comes second with 825,838.

The maximum consumption in the South occurred in June, when the off-take was 300,000 bales. This would mean that should the maximum consumption be extended over the year the South has a consuming capacity at present of 3,600,000 bales.

TWO SURGEONS DROWNED.

Four Perish When Boat Capsizes at Wilmington.

Wilmington, N. C., Aug. 8.—Four persons were drowned here today when their motor boat capsized. They were J. H. Bernemann, Jr., assistant to the chief surgeon of the Atlantic Coast Line; Dr. Morris M. Caldwell, resident surgeon of the Seaboard Air Line; Clieil Caldwell, of Concord, N. C., brother of Dr. Caldwell, and Chief Engineer Warwell, of the German steamer Necaria. The party was on its way to visit one of the German steamers.

VILLA ISSUES STATEMENT.

Says He Is Willing to Follow Wilson's Suggestion.

El Paso, Aug. 7.—Gen. Villa has deferred his departure for Torreon to await the arrival of Gen. Scott. In a statement issued today he declared he is willing to follow any suggestions offered by President Wilson and the A. B. C. delegates which promise to bring peace. "If I need be, I will resign," declared Villa. "But Carranza must resign too. I am glad Gen. Scott is coming. He will undoubtedly settle all differences between American mining men and merchants and my government."

MCLOUGHLIN BEATS WILLIAMS.

Has Little Trouble With National Lawn Tennis Champion.

Boston, Aug. 6.—Maurice E. McLoughlin, of San Francisco, defeated B. Norris Williams, 2nd, of Boston, the national lawn tennis champion, in the challenge match for the Longwood bowl today. The match was played on a slippery court. The score was 6-3, 6-3, 2-6, 6-2.

TO BE CARDINAL IRELAND.

American Archbishop to be Elevated to Sacred College.

Paris, Aug. 7.—A Rome dispatch says that Archbishop Ireland will be made a cardinal at the next consistory.